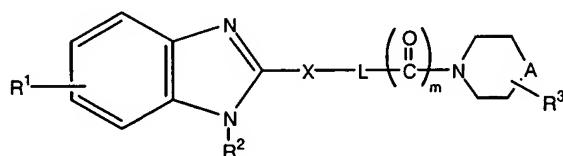


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure.

A benzimidazole compound or a salt thereof which has an inhibitory action of ~~forming~~ foaming of macrophages and is useful as an active ingredient of a medicament for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of arteriosclerosis, which is represented by the formula (I):



wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, or a lower alkoxy group; R² represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an acyl group; R³ represents a functional group on the ring; A represents O or CH₂ or CH that forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom; L represents a C₄-C₈ alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by (CH₂CH₂O)_nCH₂CH₂ wherein n represents 1 or 2; X represents O, S or methylene group; and m represents 0 or 1.